

BOOKS RECEIVED

SCOTT, RICHARD W. 1995. *The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains. Volume I. The Middle Rockies.* (ISBN 0-87480-482-5, hbk). University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT. \$110.00. 901 Pp. Line drawings. Maps.

From the Preface: The flora serves a dual purpose according to the author. First, it deals with the alpine plants within the political boundaries of the state of Wyoming; second, it treats the more natural physiographic unit, the Middle Rocky Mountains, which encompasses the states of Montana, Wyoming, and Utah, and a very small bit of Idaho.

From the Flora: All the flowering plants and vascular cryptogams known to occur above timberline in the Middle Rocky Mountains are described in the manual, as are the timberline conifers. The flora consists of 700 taxa including 55 subspecies and 314 varieties. The taxa included in this manual are based on specimens collected throughout the Middle Rocky Mountain region. The taxonomic treatment begins with a dichotomous key to all the families. The families are then presented in alphabetical order for ease of location, and each family is also organized alphabetically by genus and species. Dichotomous keys are provided for each taxonomic rank, ultimately leading to the species treatment. Intraspecific taxa are treated within the species. Each species description is based on personal observations of plants in the field, herbarium specimens, and references from regional manuals and floras. The species description is followed by a short habitat description. Next the Middle Rocky Mountain distribution is given by mountain range. Comments on intraspecific taxa and how to distinguish them follow the distribution information. The distribution maps show the distribution pattern of each species in the alpine flora. The dots are based on herbarium specimens and, in a very few cases, field observations when no specimens were available.

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